Please amend claims 1, 2, 6 and 10 as follows:

1. (Three times amended) A peptide of the formula: $R^1 - X^1 - X^2 - R^2$

wherein X^1 is phenyl alanine;

X^2 is any amino acid residue;

R^1 is NH_2- or an amino acid sequence $X^3 - X^4 - X^5$

wherein X^3 is an aliphatic amino acid residue having a side chain hydroxyl group and X^4 and X^5 are the same or different and are any amino acid residue and wherein R^2 is a sequence of 1 to 3 amino acid residues which are the same or different and are aliphatic amino acid residues provided that the peptide is not Phe-Glu-Gly, Phe-Ala-Gly [or], Phe-Ala-Gly-Gly or Phe-Ala-Ala-Ala.

2. (Three times amended) A peptide of the formula: $R^1-X^1-X^2-R^2$

wherein X^1 is phenyl alanine;

X^2 is Glu or Ala;

R^2 is Gly-Gly;

R^1 is $X^3 - X^4 - X^5$ wherein

X^3 is Thr,

X^4 is Asp or Ala and

X^5 is Ile or Ala.

6. (Twice amended) The peptide of claim 2 having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

E2

(a) Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:9);

(b) Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:11);

(c) Phe-Ala-Gly-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:12); and

(d) Phe-Glu-Sarcosine.

E3

10. (Three times amended) The peptide of claim 6 wherein Phe and [Glue] Glu or Ala are D amino acids.

Please add new claims 31-36 as follows:

--31. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12 wherein the peptide comprises at least one D amino acid.

E4

32. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12 wherein the peptide is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) Phe-Glu-Gly;

(b) Thr-Asp-Ile-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:8);

(c) Thr-Ala-Ile-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:3);

(d) Thr-Asp-Ala-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:4); and

(e) Thr-Asp-Ile-Phe-Ala-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:6).

33. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 12 wherein the peptide is Phe-Glu-Gly and wherein Phe and Glu are D amino acids.

34. A method for treating or preventing SIRS-induced hypotension in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a peptide selected from the group consisting of

(a) Phe-Glu-Gly;

(b) Thr-Asp-Ile-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:8);

(c) Thr-Ala-Ile-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:3);

(d) Thr-Asp-Ala-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:4);

(e) Thr-Asp-Ile-Phe-Ala-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:6); and

(f) Phe-Glu-Gly wherein Phe and Glu are D amino acids,

or an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide.

E4 cont

35. A method for treating or preventing anaphylactic hypotension in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a peptide selected from the group consisting of

(a) Phe-Glu-Gly;

(b) Thr-Asp-Ile-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:8);

(c) Thr-Ala-Ile-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:3);

(d) Thr-Asp-Ala-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:4);

(e) Thr-Asp-Ile-Phe-Ala-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:6); and

(f) Phe-Glu-Gly wherein Phe and Glu are D amino acids,

or an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide.

36. A method for treating or preventing an anaphylactic reaction in a mammal comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a peptide selected from the group consisting of

E4 cont

(a) Phe-Glu-Gly;

(b) Thr-Asp-Ile-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:8);

(c) Thr-Ala-Ile-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:3);

(d) Thr-Asp-Ala-Phe-Glu-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:4);

(e) Thr-Asp-Ile-Phe-Ala-Gly-Gly (Sequence ID NO:6); and

(f) Phe-Glu-Gly wherein Phe and Glu are D amino acids,

or an effective fragment or derivative of said peptide.--